

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
September 10, 2003

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: A Resolution requesting fifty four thousand dollars from the State Water Resources Control Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account fund to study marine sediment cleanup levels in San Diego Bay. (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2003-0315)
(Brennan Ott)

PURPOSE: The funding will allow California Department of Fish and Game staff to assist Regional Board staff in assessing human health and aquatic-dependent wildlife risks from contaminated sediment in San Diego Bay.

PUBLIC NOTICE: None required.

DISCUSSION: Elevated levels of pollutants exist in San Diego Bay sediments. The concentration of these pollutants cause or threaten to cause a condition of pollution that harms aquatic life beneficial uses designated for the Bay. The concentrations of these pollutants may also present aquatic-dependent wildlife (e.g., birds and aquatic reptiles) and human health risks from exposure to pollutants through the food chain attributable to the contaminated sediment.

The Regional Board wishes to continue working with the California Department of Fish and Game to jointly develop a uniform approach to assess aquatic-dependent wildlife and human health risks at several sites within San Diego Bay that have contaminated sediments. These sites include the following:

North San Diego Bay

- B Street / Broadway Pier
- Downtown Anchorage
- Solar Turbines

Mid San Diego Bay

- National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)
- Southwest Marine
- Mouth of Switzer Creek
- Mouth of Chollas Creek
- Seventh Street Channel

South San Diego Bay

- BF Goodrich Aeorstructures

By memorandum dated August 26, 2003 the Executive Officer requested that the State Water Resources Control Board provide \$54,000 in funding from the State Cleanup and Abatement Account for the purposes of entering into a contract with Fish and Game. This funding will enable the Regional Board to renew its previous contract (Contract No. 01-251-190-0 DFG) with Fish and Game staff to continue their participation with Regional Board staff in developing a uniform approach, using scientifically defensible methods, to assess risks to the health of wildlife and humans from contaminated sediment in San Diego Bay. Technical staff resources at the Department of Fish and Game can be employed to ensure both the validity of the wildlife and human health assessment protocols that are being established and the successful application of these protocols at the sites listed above. The results of this joint effort will provide a firm foundation for developing site-specific sediment cleanup levels at a number of sites in San Diego Bay that would be fully protective of beneficial uses. These results can already be witnessed in the NASSCO and Southwest Marine shipyards cleanup. Both sites will enter the cleanup phase in early 2004.

The State Board has requested that the Regional Board adopt a resolution supporting the request for Cleanup and Abatement funds. Attached is a Resolution supporting the request for \$54,000 from the State Cleanup and Abatement Account to fund the Department of Fish and Game's technical work on the sites listed above.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: 1) Resolution No. R9-2003-0315
2) August 26, 2003 Memorandum

RECOMMENDATION(S): Staff recommends the adoption of Resolution No. R9-2003-0315.